

Final Report of Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Date Prepared: 8/7/14
Prepared by: Amber E. Gillum, Acting State Director
South Carolina Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 1520
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

DOB: 2/14/12 Race: W Gender: M

Type of Report: X Fatality Near Fatality

Date of Fatality or Near Fatality: 4/20/12

Cause and Circumstances of the Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Date Report Accepted for Investigation: 4/20/12

Summary of Allegations: On 4/20/12, SCDSS received a report indicating the mother came home from the doctor and found her two month old baby's right leg severed and that the child had suffered additional severe, life-threatening injuries. The reporter stated a dog that the family was caring for hurt the baby. The reporter stated the father slept through the incident. The reporter stated the mother was away from the home at a doctor's appointment. The reporter stated two additional children, ages two and seven, will be taken into protective custody. The reporter later called and stated the two month old child was deceased.

Date Investigation Initiated: 4/20/12

Case Decision: The case was indicated for neglect and substantial risk of neglect by the father.

Date of Case Decision: 5/24/12

Basis for Case Decision: The father neglected the child by failing to provide the child with supervision appropriate to the child's age and development while a dog was present in the home. The child was mauled to death by the dog as his father slept. These conditions also placed the deceased child's siblings in substantial risk of neglect.

The Department's Response After the Fatality or Near Fatality

The siblings of the deceased child were taken into emergency protective custody by law enforcement.

SCDSS provided a referral to parenting education, counseling, a psychological evaluation, and case management and monitoring through a Family Preservation case. SCDSS also provided a referral to the father for a sleep study.

The case is currently open.

Previous Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations that are Pertinent to the Child Fatality or Near Fatality. (Note: State law prohibits disclosure of records or information in unfounded cases).

The family has no prior child protective services history.